

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A needle device for percutaneous drug delivery to a patient, the device comprising:

a substantially L-shaped, hollow needle for drug delivery therethrough, the needle device including a base, a spacer having first and second ends that are longitudinally spaced apart, said first end being integral with said base, and a pair of opposed flexible handles integral with said second end of said spacer, the flexible handles adapted to be grasped for insertion of said needle device into and removal of said needle device from said patient, : a rigid spine located above the spacer and the handles, the rigid spine including a first portion of said L-shaped needle therein, the handles having distal ends movable into contact with each other when the handles are grasped, the handles engaging said spine when said distal ends are in contact.

Please cancel claim 2, without prejudice.

3. (Currently amended) The needle device according to claim 2 1 wherein said handles are flexible away from said base for grasping.

4. (Original) The needle device according to claim 3 wherein each of said handles includes a groove extending along a width of said handles for increased flexing in a preferred region of said handles.

Please cancel claim 5, without prejudice.

6. (Currently amended) The needle device according to claim 5 1 wherein said base is flexible for conforming to a skin surface of a patient.

7. (Original) The needles device according to claim 6 further comprising a breathable pad on said base for contact with said skin surface of said patient.

8. (Original) The needle device according to claim 7 wherein said breathable pad extends around the periphery of said base.

9. (Original) The needle device according to claim 8 wherein said breathable pad is a plastic foam pad.

Please cancel claim 10, without prejudice.

11. (Currently amended) The needle device according to claim 10 1 wherein a first portion of said L-shaped needle extends substantially parallel to said base, and a second portion of said L-shaped needle extends from and is substantially perpendicular to said base.

12. (Original) The needle device according to claim 11 wherein said second portion of said needle extends approximately from a center of said base.

Please cancel claim 13, without prejudice.

14. (Currently amended) The needle device according to claim 13 1 wherein said spine includes a needle cover, said needle cover ~~for~~ covering at least a portion of said first portion of said needle, said cover being unitary with said spacer, said base and said handles.

15. (Currently amended) The needle device according to claim 13 1 wherein said grooves are v-shaped.

16. (Original) The needle device according to claim 11 further comprising a flexible tube having one end coupled to and in fluid communication with an end of said first portion of said needle.